

Laying a Foundation for Hawaii's New ORMP

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Good morning and welcome. Looking around, I see many people who have contributed much to the cause of ocean management in Hawaii. Your presence today acknowledges your recognition of the importance of the planning process for Hawaii's new Ocean Resources Management Plan that the Office of Planning has initiated.

I want to begin with a bit of context for our efforts today, briefly describe the community process leading up to today and then outline our strategy for moving the ORMP process along.

Starting with *Hawaii and the Sea* in 1969, state government has made several efforts to organize comprehensive ocean management in ways that integrate the management efforts of all levels of government. But the roots of integrated management go back much further; back to the traditional management regime that characterized Hawaii before the arrival of Cook.

So our work today is builds on much history—and we have the opportunity to look at current management problems and opportunities through the lens of both traditional and modern experience.

While Hawaii is regarded as a pioneer in ocean management, much has happened nationally over the last several years that bears on our work and creates a context for what we're doing. I want to cite two endeavors, in particular, because they may eventually shape how we conceive of our own work.

Nationally some key foundations, non-profit organizations and the federal government have recognized what can fairly be characterized as a crisis in ocean management. A comprehensive report sponsored by the Pew Foundation in 2003—*America's Oceans in Crisis*—concluded that:

- We have failed to conceive of the oceans as our largest public domain, to be managed holistically for the greater public good in perpetuity. Our oceans span nearly 4.5 million sq. miles, an area 23% larger than the nation's land area.
- Similarly we have only begun to recognize how vital our oceans and coasts are to the economy as well as the cultural heritage of our nation;
- Finally, we have come too slowly to recognize the interdependence of land and sea and how activities far inland can disrupt the many benefits provided by coastal ecosystems.

- The foundation of U.S. ocean policy was laid in a very different context than exists today. The principal laws that protect our coastal zones, endangered marine mammals, ocean waters and fisheries were enacted 30 years ago on a crisis-by-crisis, sector-by-sector basis.

The report identifies five priority objectives:

- Declare a principled, unified national ocean policy based on protecting ecosystem health and requiring sustainable use of ocean resources;
- Encourage a comprehensive and coordinated governance of ocean resources and uses at scales appropriate to the problems to be solved.
- Restructure fishery management institutions and reorient fisheries policy to protect and sustain the ecosystems on which our fisheries depend.
- Protect important habitat and manage coastal development to minimize habitat damage and water quality impairment.
- Control sources of pollution, particularly nutrients, that are harming marine ecosystems.

The federal government also sponsored an important initiative. The Coastal Act of 2000 created the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy with carrying out the first ocean-related issues in laws in more than thirty years. The Commission took up the charge and developed more than 200 recommendations in its 2004 report.

The U.S. Commission identified several important areas for state involvement which I want to briefly mention:

- Formal and informal ocean education at all levels, including outreach to underrepresented and underserved communities.
- Creation of regional ocean councils to help coordinate federal, state, tribal and local planning and action, and of regional ocean information programs to supply the information needed to support an ecosystem-based approach.
- Improved management of coastal areas, including incorporation of coastal watersheds, to achieve better control of non-point sources of pollution, growth management, natural hazards mitigation, marine transportation planning, regional sediment management, and identification of priority habitats for conservation and restoration.
- Development of a prioritized, comprehensive plan for upgrading the nation's aging and inadequate wastewater and drinking water infrastructure, including improved stormwater management.

- Coordination of a national water quality monitoring network and creation of useful products based on monitoring data.
- Planning for early detection, prompt notification, and rapid response to marine invasive species.
- Prevention of marine debris, in part through public outreach and education.
- Management of commercial and recreational fish stocks and sustainable aquaculture operations.
- Protection of corals and coral reefs.
- Development of a coordinated offshore management regime, including the design and implementation of marine protected areas.
- Development of renewable and nonrenewable ocean energy sources, including attention to their environmental and socioeconomic impacts.

These are not new initiatives. Some of these recommendations have been part of Hawaii's agenda for more than 35 years. Hawaii has a history of efforts to engage in comprehensive approaches to ocean planning and management. I want to mention just a few:

- In 1969 and again 1974, the governor appointed task forces to examine ocean management. The result was *Hawaii and the Sea—A Plan for State Action*.
- One of the many recommendations coming from these efforts was the establishment a cabinet level office, the Marine Affairs Coordinator. A MAC coordinator office lasted until 1982 when it was transferred to the DPED's Ocean Resources Office.
- In 1975, the legislature enacted the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management law, establishing the special management area which the counties are to exercise regulatory authority.
- There were other task forces and plans as well, including the Ocean Resources Tourism Development Task Force, Hawaii Ocean and Marine Resources Council in 1988, the Hawaii Ocean Recreation Management Plan, aquaculture plans and others.
- Finally, on this list, there was Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan in 1991, the most immediate precedent for the planning and management effort we will discuss today. The 1991 ORMP was developed through a process of community involvement, expert groups and a multi-agency council that included private sector and non-governmental reps. The legislature adopted the ORMP in 1994.
- This list is by no means exhaustive—there were many more efforts—but it is a reminder of the importance of ocean resources to the people of this state and of the many plans, task forces and management endeavors in which we have been involved.

What's different now? Why is the Office of Planning initiating this new effort? The context for ocean management in Hawaii has changed in several ways.

- Pres. Clinton's designation of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands as a marine reserve. Just a month ago the governor designated state water in the NWHI as a marine refuge and prohibited taking marine resources for commercial purposes;
- Increasing pressure on fisheries
- Increased awareness of global climate change—and potential implications for hazards generally and coastal erosion in particular
- Increased population—and the implications of population growth for beach access, recreational conflicts, congestion, runoff and breakdowns in waste disposal systems
- New experiments in community level management of marine protected areas
- Growth of the cruise ship industry
- Increased potential for aquaculture, for bio-technology and other experimental resource uses;
- Increased awareness of the ahupua`a both as a way of thinking about linkages between land based activities and ocean uses and impacts—and as a potential governance strategy for some areas.
- A renewed emphasis on the importance of implementation.

This is part of the context that frames the Office of Planning's initiative to develop a new Ocean Resources Management Plan. Over the past several months, the Office of Planning has coordinated an effort to gather information from a variety of groups and organizations, including:

- The Hawaii Ocean and Coastal Council composed of approximately 30 members representing federal, state and county agencies and Hawaiian cultural groups. HOCC has held monthly meetings since May.
- The Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC, a citizen advisory group assisting the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program has an ORMP working group that has prepared a series of white papers.
- Environmental groups and a variety of ocean user groups; and
- Meetings of citizens and community groups, organized by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Groups, Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Hawaiian CZM program on all islands.

- ✓ IN various ways, these groups and individuals were asked to identify uses and threats that are predicted to have the greatest impacts on Hawaii's ocean resources over the next 20 years;
- ✓ Prioritize issues that states, counties and communities must address over the next five years;
- ✓ Recommend specific actions by which the state and counties and communities may resolve user conflicts and reduce impacts; and
- ✓ Provide recommendations on a framework for the updated ORMP.

This process is illustrated by figure in your packet. These meetings and workshops have produced much useful information. They have contributed substantially to the foundation being laid for the new ORMP.

Today we have gathered to continue this process of framing the new ORM plan for the Office of Planning.

By the end of the day, we hope to set some tentative priorities among issues and opportunities that will be the focus of the new ORM plan and to provide as much guidance as we can to the Office of Planning about how those issues might be addressed.

- We will work in twelve groups today, six in the morning and six in the afternoon. In each group, facilitators will guide groups in addressing several key questions:
- What are the major threats to this resource or sector? What are the major opportunities for productive use?
- What are the primary indicators or 'symptoms' associated with this threat or opportunity (*e.g. increasing conflicts between jet skis and other recreational users, increasing shoreline retreat, increasing # of days of recorded fecal pollution in recreational areas, increasing applications for aquaculture development*)?
- What are the primary actions (e.g. policy changes, public-private partnerships) that should be taken to address this threat or opportunity?
- In five or ten years, how will we know we have been successful in addressing this threat or opportunity? What are our measures of success?
- Does the proposed action lend itself to *ahupua`a* management?

As the agenda indicates, we will begin the small group work after the governor's speech, break for lunch and go to the second group after lunch.

After the second group meets, we will have brief reports from the groups and post their reports for all to see.

We will then ask you to help set some priorities among the proposed actions recommended by the 12 groups.

To help us in the small groups we have six facilitators. I want to ask them to stand now as I introduce them: Bruce Barnes, Dolores Foley, Kerrie Urosevich, Ed Morrell, Lehua Lopez-Mau and Charmaine Crockett. I also want to introduce Tracey Wiltgen who will help with the priority setting this afternoon. All of us will be available for questions about process during the coffee break.

I want to emphasize again that this is just one step in the process of preparing Hawaii's new ORMP, albeit an important one. As the chart indicates, the results of today's meeting will be recorded and sent to all participants, including those who could not participate in today's discussion. Everyone will have an opportunity to reflect on results and make additional contributions to the framing of the plan.

The Office of Planning will be preparing the plan over the next several months. During that time there will be additional opportunities for comment and evaluation.

Today's workshop is an important opportunity. We can continue to help lay a foundation for a plan and planning process that could make a difference in how Hawaii's ocean resources are perceived and managed. I hope that you will bring the same energy, expertise and commitment to this process that has characterized the work so far.

Thank you.

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